

Parents of Children with Disabilities

Richmond County Schools provide services to special needs students ages 3-21 in a continuum of educational environments from consultation, inclusion and resource services to full day placements in specialized classrooms. Students receive evaluations in all suspected areas of disability. The student's Individual Educational Plan (IEP) determines the type and level of required services. Students and parents are afforded all due process procedural safeguards as outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Richmond County Schools provide services through the following eligibility classifications:

1. Autism
2. Deaf / Blind
3. Deaf / Hard of Hearing
4. Emotional and Behavioral Disorder
5. Intellectual Disabilities
 - a. Mild Intellectual Disabilities
 - b. Moderate Intellectual Disabilities
 - c. Severe Intellectual Disabilities
 - d. Profound Intellectual Disabilities
6. Orthopedic Impairment
7. Other Health Impairment
8. Severe Emotional and Behavioral Disorder
9. Significant Developmental Delay
10. Specific Learning Disability
11. Speech - Language Impairment
12. Traumatic Brain Injury
13. Visual Impairment

Parents with special needs children can facilitate the transition from their child's previous school placement to enrollment in the Richmond County Schools by insuring

that they have a copy of their child's current Individual Educational Plan (IEP). This document contains the information that is essential for determining the most appropriate placement for the student here in Richmond County. When a special needs student is enrolled, an Interim Placement for up to 45 days is made to provide the student with the support he or she requires, based on the information in his/her IEP. This allows time for eligibility records and supportive data to be requested and forwarded and to monitor the student's progress on his/ her IEP goals and objectives. Parents can facilitate this process by: obtaining copies of their child's most current Eligibility Reports; Educational Evaluations; Psychological Evaluations; and as appropriate, Medical Records and sharing this information along with the IEP, upon registration. Once all eligibility information has been collected and reviewed a re-determination / eligibility / IEP meeting is scheduled to determine if the incoming eligibility can be accepted under Georgia guidelines or if additional data is needed to establish the student's continued program eligibility. If the eligibility is accepted the team will then develop a Richmond County IEP for the student. If it is determined that additional data is needed to establish the student's program eligibility, the interim placement is continued for up to 60 calendar days as the necessary data is collected.

Listed below are the procedures for obtaining an Interim Placement for your child:

1. Determine your zoned school by entering your address in the School Locator web page under schools on the BOE site.
2. Bring copies of your child's IEP and any supporting data to the school when you register your child
3. The school will review this information and forward it to the Special Education Office to determine Interim Services.
 - ☐ You will be asked to sign a Release of Confidential Information
 - ☐ The school will make every effort to assign you child to a class that has inclusion support services.
 - ☐ You will be apprised if the services your student needs is not available in your zoned school.
4. As soon as your child's IEP is reviewed the interim meeting paperwork is forwarded to either your zoned school or the school where the most appropriate services are available.
5. The school will contact you to schedule an Interim IEP Meeting.
6. At the Interim IEP Meeting the team will:

- ☐ Review the child's incoming IEP
- ☐ Discuss appropriate service models and modifications
- ☐ Determine least restrictive environment for addressing your student's goals and objectives
- ☐ You will be asked to sign Permission for Interim Placement
- ☐ The school forwards all the paperwork to the Special Education office for distribution to the appropriate service providers

If you have any questions, please contact [Barbara Ball](#), Due Process Facilitator, at (706) 826-1132 at the Special Education Office.